

## **Statement on the death of newborn male, Grayson Sherwood**

**Date Issued: May 10, 2023**

On October 8, 2021, the Department of Child Safety received a report regarding a male who was born at home on October 7, 2021. The newborn, Grayson, was transported to the hospital shortly after his birth where he was pronounced deceased.

There were no other children residing in Ms. Ivie's home at the time of the incident. DCS conducted a joint investigation with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office regarding the death.

The Maricopa County Medical Examiner ruled Grayson's cause of death was complications of prematurity in the setting of fentanyl and methamphetamine exposure.

On April 19, 2023, the Department substantiated the allegation of neglect of Grayson Sherwood by his mother, Tabatha Ivie.

DCS received the following prior reports involving the family:

On March 5, 2006, a report was received alleging neglect to a child by their mother, Tabatha Ivie. The report alleged Ms. Ivie used methamphetamine during her pregnancy. Following an assessment of child safety, the child was assessed as safe in the home and the case remained open while the family completed services. The allegations were unsubstantiated, and the case was closed on July 15, 2006.

On July 28, 2007, a report was received alleging neglect to a second child by their mother, Tabatha Ivie. The report alleged mother was using morphine during her pregnancy. The allegations were unsubstantiated. The family was referred for in-home services and the case was still open when a new report was received.

On October 31, 2007, a report was received alleging neglect to two children by their mother, Tabatha Ivie. The report alleged that there was a domestic violence incident between the parents.

The allegations were unsubstantiated and the Department provided in-home services to the family. Ultimately, a dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on November 30, 2007. Parental rights were terminated to Ms. Ivie's first two children in September 2008.

On July 12, 2008, a report was received alleging neglect to a third child by their mother, Tabatha Ivie. The report alleged that Ms. Ivie tested positive for heroin at the time of the child's birth.

The allegations in the report were unsubstantiated. The child was placed in out-of-home care and a dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on September 5, 2008. The Department continued to provide services to the family. Parental rights were terminated to Ms. Ivie's third child in December 2008.

On August 4, 2011, a report was received alleging neglect to a fourth child by their mother, Tabatha Ivie. The report alleged that the mother tested positive for methamphetamine and opiates at the time of her child's birth. There were no other children in the home at this time.

The allegations were substantiated. The child was placed in out-of-home care and a dependency petition was filed with the Maricopa County Superior Court on August 11, 2011. The Department provided services to the family. Parental rights were terminated to the Ms. Ivie's fourth child in May 2012.

On June 14, 2017, a report was received alleging neglect to a fifth child by their mother, Tabatha Ivie. The report alleged that the mother was positive for methamphetamine and marijuana at the time of her child's birth.

The child was assessed as safe with another adult. The allegation of neglect was substantiated and the case was closed on July 5, 2017.

On August 10, 2018, a report was received alleging neglect to a sixth child by their mother, Tabatha Ivie. The report alleged that at the time of her child's birth, Ms. Ivie tested positive for methamphetamine, methadone, and heroin.

The child was assessed as safe with another adult. The allegation of neglect was unsubstantiated and the case was closed on October 17, 2018.

On January 26, 2020, a report was received alleging neglect to a seventh child by their mother, Tabatha Ivie. The report alleged that Ms. Ivie used heroin during her pregnancy and was positive at the time of birth for amphetamine and opiates.

The child was assessed as safe with another adult. The allegation of neglect was substantiated and the case was closed on February 3, 2020.